



THE RENAISSANCE FUND

2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INSTRUCTIONS & APPLICATION

The Renaissance Fund, NFP (“The Renaissance Fund”) awards scholarships to eligible undergraduate and graduate students attending eligible educational institutions¹ within the United States. The Renaissance Fund encourages all students to apply, however students must have a demonstrable financial need. Scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$5,000 and are for the purposes of providing educational assistance to recipients with true and verifiable financial need who are of Greek heritage or are actively involved with the Eastern Orthodox faith. The Renaissance Fund reserves the right to award scholarships in amounts that exceed the scholarship award amount listed based on the financial need of the Applicant, academic performance, community service and the quality of the application submitted. Please make sure you read these instructions very carefully.

Attached is the Checklist and Application Form required for The Renaissance Fund Scholarship. The Scholarship Application must be filled out in its entirety. Students must submit a complete application with all required documentation to The Renaissance Fund to be considered for a scholarship. (See list below and Checklist for details). **Make sure you include the Checklist as the top page of your completed Application.** It is the responsibility of each student to ensure their application is complete and the required materials have been received. **The Renaissance Fund will not consider incomplete Applications.** Please type or print your responses clearly.

Selection of recipient students will be based on the following information:

- Applicant’s financial need. Financial need may be demonstrated in many ways, including but not limited to one or more of the following:
 - 1) Amount of household income;
 - 2) Single parent household as a result of death or divorce;
 - 3) Total student loan debt to date;
 - 4) Number of siblings attending college;
 - 5) A parent’s disability or retirement;
 - 6) Significant medical expenses incurred for the care and treatment of yourself or an immediate family member; or
 - 7) Other extenuating or unforeseen circumstances causing financial strain or the accumulation of necessary debt.

¹ “An eligible educational institution is a school offering higher education beyond high school. It is any college, university, trade school, or other post-secondary educational institution eligible to participate in a student aid program run by the U.S. Department of Education.” <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit/eligible-educational-inst>



- Completeness and overall quality of the application package including all of the required documentation.
- Applicant's Personal Statement prepared in compliance with The Renaissance Fund NFP's Anti-ChatGPT Policy.

The Renaissance Fund, NFP's Anti-ChatGPT Policy. Artificial intelligence ("AI") language models, such as ChatGPT, may not be used for or in the preparation of your Personal Statement. This prohibition includes and is not limited to: incorporating any part of an AI generated response into your Personal Statement; and using AI to brainstorm, formulate arguments, or template ideas for your Personal Statement. The Renaissance Fund has sole discretion in reviewing the Personal Statements for usage of AI language models. Any Personal Statement, which The Renaissance Fund believes was created using AI, will be assumed to be plagiarized and the Applicant disqualified from consideration for a Scholarship Award.

- Applicant's GPA and academic standing.
- Applicant's SAT/ACT/GMAT/GRE/LSAT or MCAT scores.
- Applicant's community involvement or service within the church.

Required Documentation:

In addition to the Scholarship Application, Applicants need to submit the following required documentation to be considered for a scholarship (**NOTE: Any documents submitted in Greek must be accompanied by a certified English Translation**):

- Proof of enrollment at a U.S eligible educational institution. This could be an admission letter, class schedule, billing receipt, or any other documentation showing enrollment for the 2024-2025 academic year.
- Copies of the Applicant's SAT/ACT/GMAT/GRE/LSAT or MCAT scores.
- Official transcripts (If you are a high school senior applying for an undergraduate scholarship please provide your high school transcript).
- A copy of your current Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA") or Student Aid Report ("SAR"). **Please redact your full date of birth, leaving only the year of your birth and any social security numbers appearing on the FAFSA or SAR before submitting the documents. IF YOU UPLOAD TAX RETURN INFORMATION TO FAFSA FROM THE IRS YOU WILL NEED TO INCLUDE THE FIRST TWO (2) PAGES OF YOUR PARENT, PARENTS AND/OR YOUR FORM 1040 FEDERAL**



INCOME TAX RETURN. NOTE: If you have not applied for FAFSA or SAR, please indicate on the application checklist and provide the first two (2) pages of your parent, parents and/or your Form 1040 Federal Income Tax Return. **Please redact social security numbers on any Federal Income Tax Returns.**

- Applicant's Resume or Curriculum Vitae.
- If the Applicant is applying on the basis of affiliation with the Eastern Orthodox Church, please provide evidence of that affiliation. This could be a letter from a Priest or other document evidencing the affiliation.
- If the Applicant is applying on the basis of Greek Heritage, please provide evidence of that heritage.
 - If applying based on Greek Heritage of Applicant:
 - Birth Certificate from Greece
 - European Union Passport
 - U.S., State or Local Government authenticated documents containing evidence or reference that the student's country of origin is Greece.
 - If applying based on Greek Heritage of Applicant's parents or grandparents:
 - Birth Certificate from Greece
 - Marriage Certificate from Greece
 - Death Certificate from Greece
 - Greek or European Union Passport
 - U.S., State or Local Government authenticated documents containing evidence or reference that parents or grandparents' country of origin is Greece.
- A completely filled-in and signed Budget Form.
- At least one (1) detailed letter of recommendation from any of the following: a professional/academic source, a religious source, and/or a personal source. The detailed letter of recommendation must include the following: (a) length of time recommender has known the Applicant; (b) a detailed description of the Applicant's academic performance and abilities; (c) a detailed description of the Applicant's character; and (d) why should Applicant receive a Renaissance Fund Scholarship. Letters of recommendation from family members will not be accepted. Letters of recommendation must be signed by the recommender and mailed or emailed directly to The Renaissance Fund. **The Letter of Recommendation must contain the original signature of the recommender. Electronic signature and email recommendations will not be accepted.**
- Applicants are to provide a Personal Statement containing a narrative description consisting of no more than 500 words, double spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, outlining their financial need and why the Applicant should receive a Renaissance Fund



Scholarship. Applicant's Personal Statement of Financial Need is to be prepared in compliance with The Renaissance Fund's Anti-GPT Policy which provides as follows:

The Renaissance Fund, NFP's Anti-ChatGPT Policy. Artificial intelligence ("AI") language models, such as ChatGPT, may not be used for or in the preparation of your Personal Statement. This prohibition includes and is not limited to: incorporating any part of an AI generated response into your Personal Statement; and using AI to brainstorm, formulate arguments, or template ideas for your Personal Statement. The Renaissance Fund has sole discretion in reviewing the Personal Statements for usage of AI language models. Any Personal Statement, which The Renaissance Fund believes was created using AI, will be assumed to be plagiarized and the Applicant disqualified from consideration for a Scholarship Award.

Scholarship applications and required documentation are to be submitted in **one (1) envelope** if submitting via mail or overnight delivery or **ONE (1) COMBINED PDF** attachment if submitting via email (with the exception of the official transcripts and letters of recommendation, **Applications submitted in multiple files or in picture file format will not be considered**) to The Renaissance Fund, by mail, overnight delivery or email to the addresses below.

The Renaissance Fund, NFP
Attn: Scholarship Application
216 S. Jefferson St., Suite 301
Chicago, IL 60661

or admin@therenaissancefund.org with the Subject Line: (Name of Applicant) Scholarship Application.

Scholarship Applications must be postmarked in the case of mailing or received in the case of emailing by APRIL 1, 2024. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

The Renaissance Fund will announce decisions on Scholarship awards in August 2024.

The Renaissance Fund will disburse the first half of Scholarship awards in August of 2024 following the Applicant's acceptance of the Scholarship award, signed Scholarship Agreement, Applicant's proof of enrollment and student invoice. The Renaissance Fund will disburse the second half of the Scholarship awards in January of 2025, following Applicant's submission of grades, proof of enrollment and student invoice for Spring Semester.

Any questions should be directed to The Renaissance Fund at admin@therenaissancefund.org with "Scholarship" contained in the subject line. Due to the high volume of questions and Applicants, the Renaissance Fund is unable to respond to telephone inquiries.



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2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Student Name: _____

Required Submission Items for Scholarship Application:

- Completely filled-in and signed application
- Completely filled-in and signed Budget Form
- Proof of enrollment
- Copies of SAT/ACT/GMAT/GRE/LSAT or MCAT scores (circle one)
- Copies of FAFSA, SAR or the first two (2) pages of parents and/or your Form 1040 Federal Income Tax Return. **Please remember to redact your date and month of birth and all social security numbers.**
- Resume or Curriculum Vitae
- Evidence of affiliation with the Eastern Orthodox Church and/or Greek Heritage
- Personal Statement of Financial Need prepared in compliance with The Renaissance Fund NFP's Anti-ChatGPT Policy
- Official Transcript (If you are a high school senior applying for an undergraduate scholarship please provide your high school transcript)
- One (1) detailed Letter of Recommendation

*NOTE: If for any reason one or more of the required documents, with the exception of the Official Transcript or Letter of Recommendation is not provided, please attach an appendix with a short description as to why the document is not provided.



2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Application Information

Applicant Instructions: Please complete all sections of this application, sign it, and return it along with all required documents. Incomplete applications will not be considered—**no exceptions**.

I. STUDENT INFORMATION:

1. Student's Name: _____
2. Student's Mailing Address: _____

3. Year of Birth (YYYY): _____
4. Phone Number: _____
5. Citizenship: _____ U.S Citizen *or* _____ Permanent Resident *or* _____ F-1 Visa Holder
6. Student's Email: _____

II. SCHOOL INFORMATION:

1. Undergraduate College/University Name: _____
Location (city/state): _____
Degree: _____ Major: _____
Undergraduate GPA or High School GPA (if Senior applying): _____
Date of Graduation: _____ *or* Expected Date of Graduation: _____
2. Graduate or Post-Graduate College/University Name: _____
____n/a: Undergraduate Student
Location (city/state): _____
Degree: _____ Major: _____
GPA: _____
Expected Date of Graduation: _____
3. Enrollment Status (check one):
____ Enrolled Full-Time
____ Accepted full-time beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year



II. SCHOOL INFORMATION CONTINUED:

4. Test Scores:

SAT/ACT (circle one) Score: _____ out of _____ (for Undergraduate Applicants)

GMAT/GRE/LSAT/MCAT/ (circle one) Score: _____ out of _____ (for Graduate Applicants)

III. FAMILY INFORMATION

5. Applicant's Marital Status: ____ Single *or* ____ Married

6. Parent's Guardian Information:

Parent/Guardian 1 Name: _____

Address: _____

Occupation: _____

Parent/Guardian 1 Relationship to Applicant: _____

____ Deceased

Parent/Guardian 2 Name: _____

Address: _____

Occupation: _____

Parent/Guardian 2 Relationship to Applicant: _____

____ Deceased

No. of Siblings _____ No. of Siblings in College _____

IV. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

7. Jurisdiction: please indicate the jurisdictions listed below to which you belong/attend:

_____ Not Applicable (Applying based on Greek Heritage)

_____ Orthodox Christian Jurisdiction: _____

8. Parish Information:

Parish Name: _____

Parish Location (city/state): _____

Parish Priest Name: _____



V. LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

9. Letter of Recommendation #1: Academic/Religious/Personal (circle one)

Name: _____

Position/Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

VI. FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

10. University/College Tuition Cost: _____

11. Amount Outstanding: (Box 3 of the Budget Form): _____

12. Does the Applicant work while is in school? Y / N (circle one)

If so, approximately how many hours per week: _____

13. Have you taken out any student loans? Y / N (circle one)

If so, indicate the amount of student loan debt incurred so far: _____

14. Are your parent, parents or anyone else assisting you in any way with your tuition or living expenses? Y / N (circle one)

If so, please explain the extent of the assistance and for how long:



VII. DISBURSEMENT & CONTACT INFORMATION

15. University/College Name: _____

Student ID number: _____

Student Account number (if applicable): _____

Office of Financial Aid or Tuition Payment Address: _____

Financial Aid Advisor: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____



VIII. AUTHORIZATION & CONTACT INFORMATION

I authorize The Renaissance Fund, NFP to release Scholarship application information, including copies of my application to The Renaissance Fund or agent thereof.

I agree to have The Renaissance Fund, or its agent verify any and all of the application information given, including pertinent personal and financial information. The Renaissance Fund or its agent may contact individuals, employers, references, as well as schools cited herein to substantiate this information. I also understand that I may be required to authenticate information given by submitting copies of Federal Income Tax Returns, FAFSA, SAR, evidence of student loan debt, test scores, transcripts, or any other relevant documents or statements.

I hereby certify that the information provided in this application and its attachments are true and accurate and that I am the author of this completed application, resume, budget form and Personal Statement of Financial Need. I understand that if any information is found to be inaccurate or incomplete, The Renaissance Fund will deny me a scholarship award.

I acknowledge that The Renaissance Fund has advised me to omit and/or redact my date and month of birth as well as all social security numbers from my application or any of the Required Documentation submitted with this application. I understand and agree to hold harmless and hereby release The Renaissance Fund from any and all liability for claims of damages related to the disclosure of any personal identification information that I may have submitted with my application.

If awarded The Renaissance Fund Scholarship, I authorize The Renaissance Fund to publicize my name and the school I am attending in printed materials and on its website. The Renaissance Fund is committed to protecting the security and integrity of all information provided by an Applicant. All personal identification or financial information and/or documents disclosed to The Renaissance Fund through the application process, (“Protected Information”) will be protected and kept confidential. The Renaissance Fund will not directly or indirectly sell, trade, or otherwise disclose your Protected Information to outside parties.

If a Scholarship is awarded, the Applicant agrees that prior to the disbursement of any Scholarship funds, it will be required to execute a Scholarship Agreement setting forth the terms, conditions, and restrictions of the Scholarship award and the Student’s obligation to The Renaissance Fund, NFP.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Printed Name of Applicant: _____

Date: _____